

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

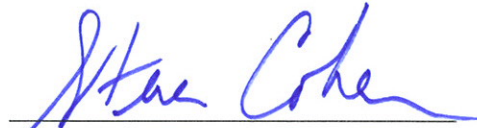
Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Wolf, Ranking Member Lowey and Ranking Member Fattah:

Thank you for the strong support you have shown for reducing the backlog of untested sexual assault kits. We appreciate the \$36 million you included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill specifically to reduce the backlog of untested kits at law enforcement agencies and we were pleased that this was increased to \$41 million during House floor consideration. As you work toward final legislation that will fund the government through the end of FY 2015, we ask that you include at least \$41 million for this important program.

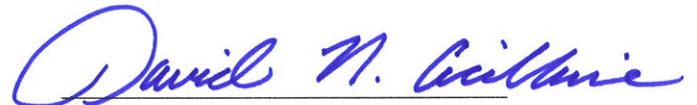
Untested rape kits are a significant public safety hazard that prevents law enforcement from apprehending violent criminals, increases the risk of additional crimes, and robs victims of the justice they deserve. DNA analysis has been revolutionary in helping to catch criminals and prevent crimes from occurring in the first place. But this evidence does us no good if it remains untested and sitting on a shelf in a lab somewhere. Despite progress over the last few years, the number of untested rape kits continues to number in the hundreds of thousands and with state and local governments tightening their belts, significant federal assistance is needed.

The funds included in the House's FY 2015 CJS Appropriations bill for reducing the sexual assault kit backlog at law enforcement agencies is an important down payment toward solving this problem once and for all. The Senate Appropriations Committee included the same amount in its FY 2015 CJS Appropriations bill, demonstrating strong support on both sides of the Capitol. We hope that you will work together to ensure that any omnibus appropriations bill or continuing resolution include at least \$41 million for this critical program.

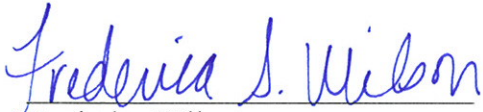
Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



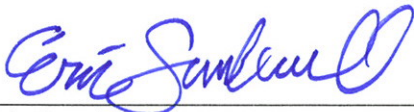
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



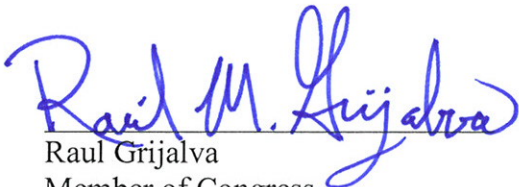
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



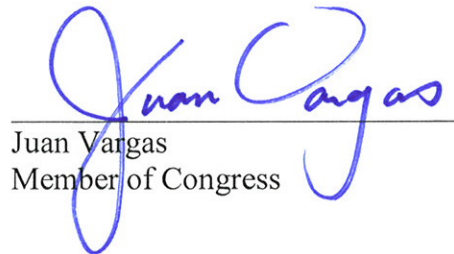
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



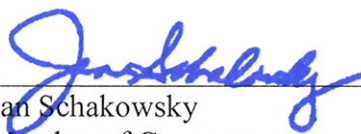
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



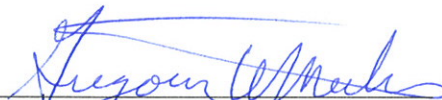
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress